

Remarks

Claims 1, 8, 11, 21, 28, 40, 41, and 42 are currently amended. Claims 5, 13, 29, 36, 37, and 39 are cancelled. Claim 43 has been added. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-28, 30-35, and 40-43 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 15, 18, 23, 29, 30, 36, 37, and 39 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 36 has been rewritten in independent form through an amendment to claim 1. Claim 36 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-4, 6-7, and 34 are allowable.

Claim 39 has been rewritten in independent form through an amendment to claim 11. Claim 39 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 8-10 and 35 are allowable.

Claim 37 has been rewritten in independent form through an amendment to claim 21. Claim 37 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 21-27 are allowable.

Claim 28 has been rewritten in independent form having the same limitations as rewritten claims 36, 37, and 39 above. Claim 29 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 28 and 30-33 are allowable.

Claims 40 and 41 have been rewritten in independent form having the same limitations as rewritten claims 36, 37, and 39 above. Thus, claims 40 and 41 are allowable.

Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims as new claim 43. Thus, new claim 43 should be allowable.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 14, 17, 19-22, 24, 26, 27, and 40-42 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaji et al. (JP 07179564) in view of Ha et al. (US 6,180,200 B1).

Claims 28, 31-33, 35, and 40-42 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 052 (JP 2000-303052 (translation)).

Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, and 32-35 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaji et al. (JP 07179564) in view of Chandrasekaran et al. (US 5,405,731).

Applicants submit that in view of the amendments made to the claims as described above and the indication of allowability of the claims by the Patent Office, the above rejections are now moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejections of the pending claims be withdrawn.

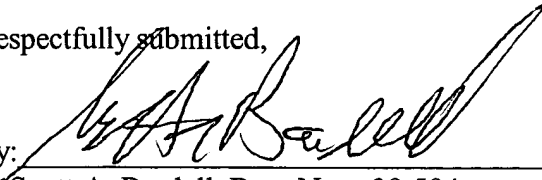
In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowance of claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-28, 30-35, and 40-43, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

31 March, 2004
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